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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/551,829

12/22/2005

Vivekanand Pai Kochikar

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7617 7590 05/29/2008

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EXAMINER

BORISSOV, IGOR N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3628

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/29/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/551,829	Applicant(s) KOCHIKAR ET AL.	
	Examiner Igor N. Borissov	Art Unit 3628	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12/22/2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4,6,8-10,13-16,18,38,59 and 77-102 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4,6,8-10,13-16,18,38,59 and 77-102 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 October 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>07/17/2006</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8-10, 13-16, 18, 38, 59, 77-102 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The above identified claims recite intermittently the following terms: “members”, “reviewers” and “experts”, which is confusing. The claims do not provide any indication regarding difference between said terms, and functions assigned to each term.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 10, 13, 14-16, 18, 77-82, 103, 38, 83, 84, 87-93, 59, 94, 95, 98-102 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ginn (US 6,275,811 B1).

Ginn teaches a computer-implemented method and system for knowledge management, comprising:

Claims 1, 38 and 59,

storing knowledge assets in a repository, preferably in a computer- readable format (C. 4, L. 62-67);

cataloguing of knowledge assets for easy retrieval by classifying them against a multi-dimensional knowledge hierarchy (C. 5, L. 1-6);

receiving new knowledge assets from members of the community (C. 4, L. 62-67);

validating, reviewing and rating of the new knowledge assets by assigned members of the community (C. 5, L. 38-30, 43-45; C. 6, L. 25-67);

storing and publishing the validated knowledge in the repository (C. 5, L. 38-30, 43-45; C. 6, L. 25-67);

reviewing and rating of published knowledge assets by any member of the community (C. 7, L. 5-10);

calculating a composite rating for knowledge assets based on an aggregation of ratings and usage over time of the knowledge assets in the community (C. 8, L. 1-42);

calculating an aggregate rating for a member in each community based on the contributions of the member to the community (C. 8, L. 1-42);

calculating an aggregate rating for each community based on the ratings of all its members (C. 8, L. 1-42);

calculating and displaying on a scoreboard, various ratings for members and communities (groups or users) (Abstract).

Ginn does not explicitly teach that said displaying step includes displaying various ratings for sub-communities. However, method steps disclosed in Ginn are equally applicable for any type of groups of users. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ginn to include that said displaying step includes displaying various ratings for sub-communities, because it would advantageously allow to accommodate needs of various groups of interests.

Claims 2, 4, 10, 13, 14-16, 18, 77-82, 103, 83, 84, 87-93, 94, 95, 98-102, are rejected on the same rationale as claims 1, 38 and 59. Furthermore, the use of

statistical tools for data manipulation is well known in the art for the benefit of time saving and achieving accurate results.

Claims 6, 8, 9, 85, 86, 96 and 97 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ginn in view of Gilmour (US 6,970,879 B1).

As per claims 6, 8, 9, 85, 86, 96 and 97, Ginn teaches all the limitations of claims 6, 8, 9, 85, 86, 96 and 97, except that said selection of said one or more reviewers is conducted by matching the knowledge nodes and paths of the asset with those of the expert profiles of members in the community.

Gilmour teaches a method and system for knowledge management, wherein when a user requests an expert in a certain field, the knowledge access server matches the term against both the public and private portions of all user profiles (C. 10, L. 24-27).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ginn to include that said selection of said one or more reviewers is conducted by matching the knowledge nodes and paths of the asset with those of the expert profiles of members in the community, as disclosed in Gilmour, because it would advantageously allow to provide the most accurate response to the request.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Igor Borissov whose telephone number is 571-272-6801. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Hayes can be reached on 571-272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Igor N. Borissov/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3628